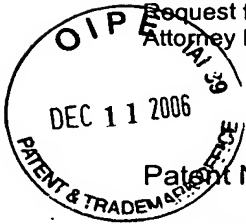


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EW

Patent No. 7,059,109
Request for Reconsideration of Prior Art Document and
Request for Certificate of Correction dated December 7, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: 0388-031645



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Certificate
DEC 14 2006
of Correction

Patent No. : 7,059,109 Confirmation No. 4587
Inventors : Samejima et al.
Issued : June 13, 2006
Title : Mid-Mount Mower Having A Mower Unit Disposed
Between A Front Wheel Unit And A Pair Of Right And
Left Rear Wheels Arranged Rearwardly Of A Vehicle
Body To Be Independently Shiftable
Examiner : Alicia Torres Group Art Unit 3671
Customer No. : 28289

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
PRIOR ART DOCUMENT AND
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §255, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and proof of error and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following error appears in the patent as printed:

(1) Title Page, See Item 56, References Cited, insert the following:
-- FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS
JP 2000-351330 12/19/2000 Kubota Corp. --
(See the Information Disclosure Statement mailed March 2, 2004 and initialed by the Examiner on November 18, 2004. See also the copy of the Abstract and partial translation of the JP '330 reference which have been enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. When returning Form PTO/SB/08A, the Examiner initialed the U.S. Patent Document, but failed to initial the Foreign Patent Document.)

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12/12/2006 SLUANG1 00000046 7059109

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100.00 OP

{W0319890.1}

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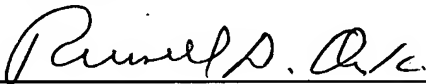
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Patentees request that Examiner Torres forward the file to the Certificate of Correction Branch after her review for the issuance of a Certificate of Correction.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Russell D. Orkin
Registration No. 25,363
Attorney for Patentees
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 7,059,109
APPLICATION NO. : 10/649,332
ISSUE DATE : June 13, 2006
INVENTORS : Samejima et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Face of the Patent, See Item 56, References Cited, add the following:

-- FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 2000-351330 12/2000 Kubota Corp. --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: The Webb Law Firm
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-2450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select Option 2.



PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No. 10/649,332
Atty. Docket No. 388-031645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 3671 : Confirmation No. 4587
In re Application of : MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER
UNIT DISPOSED BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL
Kazuo SAMEJIMA et al. : UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND LEFT REAR
WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A
Serial No. 10/649,332 : VEHICLE BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY
SHIFTABLE
Filed August 26, 2003 :
Examiner-Not Yet Assigned :
Customer No. : 28289

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March 2, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of the foreign reference listed thereon.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 2, 2004.

Kay E. Yetter

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

03/02/2004

Date

This application corresponds and claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2003-32271, filed February 10, 2003.


The relevance of Japanese unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-351330 is indicated on page 1, lines 15-16 of the specification. A partial English language translation of JP 2000-351330 is enclosed herewith.

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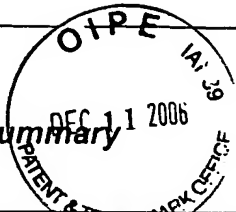
Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By


Alexander Detschelt
Registration No. 50,261
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094

Office Action Summary



Application No.

10/649,332

Applicant(s)

SAMEJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia M Torres

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/4/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO					
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/649,332
				Filing Date	August 26, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.
				Group Art Unit	3671
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	Of	1	Attorney Docket Number	388-031645

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature	<i>Alicia Lora</i>	Date Considered	11/18/67
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

{W0108592.1}

RIDING TYPE LAWN MOWER

Patent Number: JP2000351330
Publication date: 2000-12-19
Inventor(s): SAMEJIMA KAZUO; TOGOSHI YOSHIKAZU; DOBASHI HIRONORI; EZAKI YOSHIYUKI
Applicant(s): KUBOTA CORP
Requested Patent: ☐ JP2000351330
Application Number: JP19990162513 19990609
Priority Number(s):
IPC Classification: B60K11/04; A01D34/64
EC Classification:
Equivalents:

Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the strength of collision resistance of a rear end part of a vehicle body at the time of turn and front and rear balance in riding type lawn mower of speed differential steering type in which the mower is arranged between a drive rear wheel and a follow-up steering front wheel and a transmission and an engine are arranged in front of and in the back of the rear wheel, respectively.
SOLUTION: HSTs 8 are mounted per a pair of left and right drive wheels 2, 2, a driver's seat is arranged on the front side of an engine 3, and a radiator 25 is arranged between the front and rear of the driver's seat and the engine 3. A guide plate for performing suction of an HST fan 48 from below the engine is provided below the radiator 25.

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Partial Translation of
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication
2000-351330

Filed: June 9, 1999

Laid-Open: December 19, 2000

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Side elevation of a riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 2] Plan view of the riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 3] Plan view showing a structure of the vehicle's lower region;

[Fig. 4] Front view showing a region including a transmission case and a driver's seat;

[Fig. 5] Side elevation partially cut away showing a structure of the vehicle's rearward region;

[Fig. 6] Enlarged side elevation of a primary portion illustrating a raising/lowering mechanism of a mower unit;

[Fig. 7] Side elevation showing a vehicle framework structure;
and

[Fig. 8] Plan view showing the vehicle framework structure.

[0022]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

One embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 show a riding lawn mower having a mower unit mid-mounted at an underside of the vehicle body between a front wheel unit and a rear wheel unit. In the drawings, reference sign 1 denotes a pair of, right and left, dirigible front wheels; 2 - a pair of, right and left, driving rear wheels; 3 - an engine; 4 - a transmission case; 5 - a mower unit, 6 - a driver's seat; 7 - a link mechanism suspending the mower unit 5 for raising and lowering the same; and F - a vehicle framework. This lawn mower further includes HSTs (an example of a stepless change speed mechanism switchable between forward and rearward directions) 8, so that the two front wheels 1 are steered and driven based on a difference in speed between the two rear wheels 2.

[0023]

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the vehicle framework F includes a main framework "f" having a rear framework 11 for supporting the water-cooling diesel engine 3 and the transmissions case 4, and a forward framework 12 suspending the mower unit 5; and further includes an upper framework 13 connected integral with the main framework "f" for supporting the driver's seat 6. The rear framework 11 includes a pair of, right and left plate frames 9, 9; a rear-end cross frame 14 connecting these plate frames 9, 9 at respective rear ends

thereof; and an intermediate cross frame 15 connecting the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal intermediate positions thereof.

[0024]

The forward framework 12 includes a square pipe material 10 bent into a "U" open forward in plan view and welded to the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal front ends thereof; and a front end cross frame 16 interconnecting right and left front ends of the plate frames 9, 9. The upper framework 13 includes a pair of, right and left rear posts 18, 18 erected from the plate frames 9, 9 at respective positions adjacent, in a fore and aft direction, to a rear axle 17; a pair of, right and left front posts 19, 19 standing so as to ride over respective front ends of the plate frames 9, 9 and a rear end of the square pipe material 10; a pair of, right and left upper longitudinal frames 20, 20 interconnecting the rear posts 18, 18 and the front posts 19, 19, respectively; and, front and rear, upper cross frames 21, 22 each interconnecting these upper longitudinal frames 20, 20.

MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER UNIT DISPOSED
BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND
LEFT REAR WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A VEHICLE
BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY SHIFTABLE

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

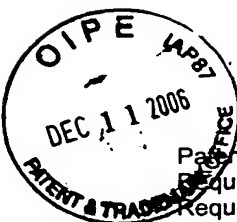
10 This invention relates to a mid-mount mower having a mower unit
mounted between a front wheel unit and a pair of right and left rear wheels
arranged rearwardly of a vehicle body to be independently shiftable.

Description of the Related Art

- 15 A riding mid-mount mower, known from Japanese Unexamined Patent
Application Publication 2000-351330, includes a body frame having a pair
of right and left front longitudinal frames and a pair of right and left rear
longitudinal frames. The front longitudinal frames support front wheels
and suspend a mower unit through links. Each rear longitudinal frame is
20 connected to a rear wheel drive section. The right and left front
longitudinal frames are connected to each other through forward and
rearward cross frames. The front longitudinal frames and the rear
longitudinal frames are connected through the rearward cross frame.
- 25 A riding mower keeps a mower unit in a raised position during a
non-operational run. When the mower runs over a rough terrain or rides
over a curb, it is desirable to raise the mower unit to a higher position to
avoid contact with the ground. In this type of mower, a gear case is
protrusively mounted on a deck of the mower unit to convert torque
30 transmitted in a longitudinal direction from a PTO shaft disposed in a rear

CJC

COPY



Patent No. 7,059,109
Request for Reconsideration of Prior Art Document and
Request for Certificate of Correction dated December 7, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: 0388-031645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 7,059,109 Confirmation No. 4587
Inventors : Samejima et al.
Issued : June 13, 2006
Title : Mid-Mount Mower Having A Mower Unit Disposed
Between A Front Wheel Unit And A Pair Of Right And
Left Rear Wheels Arranged Rearwardly Of A Vehicle
Body To Be Independently Shiftable
Examiner : Alicia Torres Group Art Unit 3671
Customer No. : 28289

Certificate
DEC 14 2006
of Correction

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

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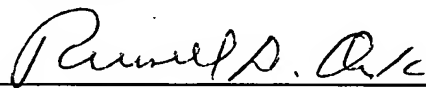
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By 

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 7,059,109
APPLICATION NO. : 10/649,332
ISSUE DATE : June 13, 2006
INVENTORS : Samejima et al.

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PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No. 10/649,332
Atty. Docket No. 388-031645

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Customer No. : 28289

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March 2, 2004

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Kay E. Yetter
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

03/02/2004
Date

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Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/649,332
				Filing Date	August 26, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.
				Group Art Unit	3671
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	Of	1	Attorney Docket Number	388-031645

[illegible][illegible]

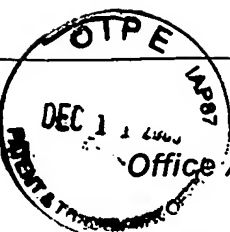
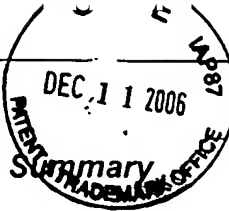
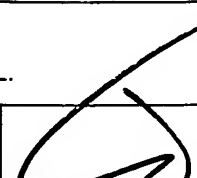
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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{W0108592.1}

 	Application No. 10/649,332	Applicant(s) SAMEJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Alicia M Torres	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/4/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO					
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/649,332
				Filing Date	August 26, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.
				Group Art Unit	3671
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	388-031645
Sheet	1	Of	1		

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature	<i>William J. Brown</i>	Date Considered	11/13/64
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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{W0108592.1}

DEC 11 2006

RIDING TYPE LAWN MOWER

Patent Number: JP2000351330

Publication date: 2000-12-19

Inventor(s): SAMEJIMA KAZUO; TOGOSHI YOSHIKAZU; DOBASHI HIRONORI; EZAKI YOSHIYUKI

Applicant(s): KUBOTA CORP

Requested Patent: ☐ JP2000351330

Application Number: JP19990162513 19990609

Priority Number(s):

IPC Classification: B60K11/04; A01D34/64

EC Classification:

Equivalents:

Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the strength of collision resistance of a rear end part of a vehicle body at the time of turn and front and rear balance in riding type lawn mower of speed differential steering type in which the mower is arranged between a drive rear wheel and a follow-up steering front wheel and a trans mission and an engine are arranged in front of and in the back of the rear wheel, respectively.

SOLUTION: HSTs 8 are mounted per a pair of left and right drive wheels 2, 2, a driver's seat is arranged on the front side of an engine 3, and a radiator 25 is arranged between the front and rear of the driver's seat and the engine 3. A guide plate for performing suction of an HST fan 48 from below the engine is provided below the radiator 25.

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Partial Translation of
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication

2000-351330

Filed: June 9, 1999

Laid-Open: December 19, 2000

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Side elevation of a riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 2] Plan view of the riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 3] Plan view showing a structure of the vehicle's lower region;

[Fig. 4] Front view showing a region including a transmission case and a driver's seat;

[Fig. 5] Side elevation partially cut away showing a structure of the vehicle's rearward region;

[Fig. 6] Enlarged side elevation of a primary portion illustrating a raising/lowering mechanism of a mower unit;

[Fig. 7] Side elevation showing a vehicle framework structure;
and

[Fig. 8] Plan view showing the vehicle framework structure.

[0022]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

One embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 show a riding lawn mower having a mower unit mid-mounted at an underside of the vehicle body between a front wheel unit and a rear wheel unit. In the drawings, reference sign 1 denotes a pair of, right and left, dirigible front wheels; 2 - a pair of, right and left, driving rear wheels; 3 - an engine; 4 - a transmission case; 5 - a mower unit, 6 - a driver's seat; 7 - a link mechanism suspending the mower unit 5 for raising and lowering the same; and F - a vehicle framework. This lawn mower further includes HSTs (an example of a stepless change speed mechanism switchable between forward and rearward directions) 8, so that the two front wheels 1 are steered and driven based on a difference in speed between the two rear wheels 2.

[0023]

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the vehicle framework F includes a main framework "f" having a rear framework 11 for supporting the water-cooling diesel engine 3 and the transmissions case 4, and a forward framework 12 suspending the mower unit 5; and further includes an upper framework 13 connected integral with the main framework "f" for supporting the driver's seat 6. The rear framework 11 includes a pair of, right and left plate frames 9, 9; a rear-end cross frame 14 connecting these plate frames 9, 9 at respective rear ends

thereof; and an intermediate cross frame 15 connecting the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal intermediate positions thereof.

[0024]

The forward framework 12 includes a square pipe material 10 bent into a "U" open forward in plan view and welded to the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal front ends thereof; and a front end cross frame 16 interconnecting right and left front ends of the plate frames 9, 9. The upper framework 13 includes a pair of, right and left rear posts 18, 18 erected from the plate frames 9, 9 at respective positions adjacent, in a fore and aft direction, to a rear axle 17; a pair of, right and left front posts 19, 19 standing so as to ride over respective front ends of the plate frames 9, 9 and a rear end of the square pipe material 10; a pair of, right and left upper longitudinal frames 20, 20 interconnecting the rear posts 18, 18 and the front posts 19, 19, respectively; and, front and rear, upper cross frames 21, 22 each interconnecting these upper longitudinal frames 20, 20.

MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER UNIT DISPOSED
BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND
LEFT REAR WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A VEHICLE
BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY SHIFTABLE

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10 This invention relates to a mid-mount mower having a mower unit
mounted between a front wheel unit and a pair of right and left rear wheels
arranged rearwardly of a vehicle body to be independently shiftable.

Description of the Related Art

15 A riding mid-mount mower, known from Japanese Unexamined Patent
Application Publication 2000-351330, includes a body frame having a pair
of right and left front longitudinal frames and a pair of right and left rear
longitudinal frames. The front longitudinal frames support front wheels
and suspend a mower unit through links. Each rear longitudinal frame is
20 connected to a rear wheel drive section. The right and left front
longitudinal frames are connected to each other through forward and
rearward cross frames. The front longitudinal frames and the rear
longitudinal frames are connected through the rearward cross frame.

25 A riding mower keeps a mower unit in a raised position during a
non-operational run. When the mower runs over a rough terrain or rides
over a curb, it is desirable to raise the mower unit to a higher position to
avoid contact with the ground. In this type of mower, a gear case is
protrusively mounted on a deck of the mower unit to convert torque
30 transmitted in a longitudinal direction from a PTO shaft disposed in a rear